

Message Text

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02819 300503Z

14

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 120818

O 292340Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7541

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDAIMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

MEMBASSY TEHRAN 4

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2819

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SU

SUBJ: NIMEIRI SEEKS USG HELP TO MAKE POSSIBLE END SAUDI OIL
RESTRICTIONS

1. SUMMARY. NIMEIRI ASKED ME LATE DEC 29 FOR USG HELPING HAND
RE APPROACH HE WILL MAKE TO FAISAL SHORTLY ON BEHALF OAU OIL
COMMITTEE TO END BOYCOTT AND OBVIATE FURTHER PRICE INCREASES
WHICH SERIOUSLY HURTING ECONOMIES DEVELOPING AFRICAN
COUNTRIES, NOTABLY SUDAN. ACCORDING TO NIMEIRI, POSITIVE
USG ACTION ALONG LINES SUGGESTED WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY
FOR FAISAL SAVE FACE AND LIFT RESTRICTIONS. HE REQUESTED
URGENT REPLY, EITHER HERE ON IN JIDDA. SINCE MINSTATE IDRIS
RETURNED FROM JIDDA EARLIER IN EVENING, NIMEIRI APPEAL SEEMS
CLEARLY RELATED GOS EFFORTS OBTAIN ITS OIL REQUIREMENT AT
REASONABLE PRICE, AS WELL AS DESIRE PLAY SPECIAL ROLE ON ARAB/
AFRICAN ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT NIMEIRISUMMONED ME URGENTLY ELEVEN P.M.
DEC 29 IN CONNECTION HIS FORTHCOMING PILGRIMAGE AND MEET-
ING WITH KING FAISAL (KHARTOUM 2798). MINSTATE BAH
AL-DIN IDRIS, WHO JUST BACK FROM JIDDA, ESCORTED ME
TO PRESIDENT'S HOME BUT WAS NOT PRESENT FOR MEETING.
PRESIDENT BEGAN BY NOTING THAT FONMIN KHALID, NOW ADDIS,
HAD JUST BEEN NAMED CHAIRMAN SEVEN-MEMBER OAU OIL
SECRET

PAGE 02 KHARTO 02819 300503Z

COMMITTEE. NIMEIRI ACCORDINGLY PLANNED TALK TO FAISAL
RE OIL PROBLEM ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN STATES. IRAQ,
LIBYA, KUWAIT WERE EXPLOITING PRESENT SITUATION AT
EXPENSE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SUDAN'S OIL BILL ALREADY

LS 20 MILLION (\$5 MILLION) AND GOS "CANNOT PAY MORE".
NIMEIRI HOPED BE ABLE DISSUADE FAISAL FROM ANY
FURTHER PRICE HIKE BUT SAID HE WOULD NEED USG HELP TO
DO SO, SINCE FORMULA MUST BE FOUND ENABLING FAISAL
SAVE FACE.

3. READING FROM NOTES, NIMEIRI THEN SAID HE HOPED PRESIDENT OR USG
WOULD PROVIDE HIM ASSURANCES, WHICH HE COULD USE WITH
FAISAL, ON THREE POINTS: (A) USG INTENTION PARTICIPATE IN
GENEVA CONFERENCE AT HIGHER, OR VERY HIGH, LEVEL UNTIL
PEACE ACHIEVED; (B) OUR DETERMINATION CONTINUE WORK
ENERGETICALLY FOR JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE
TIME; AND (C OUR SUPPORT FOR VATICAN COMMUNIQUE AFTER FOUR
AFRICAN LEADERS MET POPE (ROME 14289), PARTICULARLY ITS
REFERENCE TO FACT THAT JERUSALEM SHOULD NOT BE UNDER
CONTROL OF ONE SOLE RELIGION BUT OPEN TO ALL.

4. I SAID WOULD NATURALLY REPORT HIS REQUEST BUT WISHED
MAKE SEVERAL COMMENTS ON PERSONAL BASIS. RE LEVEL
USG PARTICIPATION GENEVA SECRETARY HAD IN FACT MADE
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT SO THAT, IN HIS ABSENCE, USG REP
WAS OUR MOST SENIOR AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE. AS TO WORKING
FOR SETTLEMENT, BOTH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY HAVE MADE
ABUNDANTLY CLEAR, MOST RECENTLY ON DEC 27, USG DETER-
MINATION MAKE EVERY EFFORT ASSIST PARTIES IN REACHING LAST-
ING PEACE. SINCE THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES, I PERSONALLY DOUBTED
WHETHER WE WOULD CONSIDER IT HELPFUL ASSOCIATE OURSELVES
AT THIS STAGE WITH ANY PARTICULAR SUGGESTION ON SPECIFIC
ISSUE, SUCH AS JERUSALEM. NIMEIRI SAID HE RECOGNIZED WE
ALREADY DOING MUCH OF WHAT HE ASKED BUT PROBLEM WAS TO
FIND FORMULA WHEREBY FAISAL COULD END OIL RESTRICTIONS
WITH FACE SAD. IF HE ABLE PERSUADE FAISAL ON BASIS WHAT-
EVER ASSURANCE US MIGHT FEEL ABLE PROVIDE, HE WOULD
THEN CONTEMPLATE VISITING PRESIDENT NIXON IN ORDER CONFIRM
POINTS. AT THAT STATE, NIMEIRI INDICATED, SOME PUBLIC
STATEMENT WOULD BE NECESSARY ON BASIS OF WHICH FAISAL
SECRET

PAGE 03 KHARTO 02819 300503Z

COULD "INCREASE" PRODUCTION WITHOUT RISKING ARAB
BACKLASH.

5. NIMEIRI ASSERTED THAT, WHILE MOST ARAB PRODUCERS
FAVORED FURTHER PRICE INCREASES, SAG DID NOT. AT RECENT
KWAIT MEETING, SAUDIS HAD BEEN ALONE IN NOT FAVORING
PRICE INCREASES BUT HAD HAD TO GO ALONG. NIMEIRI VINED#
SHAH WAS ON FENCE ON MATTER PRICE INCREASE AND ASKED
THAT USG APPROACH SHAH TO URGE HIM AVOID FURTHER HIKES
(ALL SUDAN'S OIL CURRENTLY FROM IRAN). IF THIS
COULD BE DONE, THEN FAISAL'S HAND WOULD BE STRENGTH-
ENED ON PRICE ISSUE, AND, SAID NIMEIRI, WITH
SUDAN NOW HEADING OAU OIL COMMITTEE, HE WOULD TRY HARD

SEE ARABS AVOIDED FURTHER PRICE INCREASES. HOWEVER,
NEXT ARAB OIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LIBYA WHERE
HE FEARED "MAD DECISIONS" WOULD BE TAKEN. HE PLANNED
ALERT FAISAL TO THIS CONCERN.

6. PRESIDENT CONFIRMED HE WILL VISIT AL-FASHER DEC 30 IN
CONNECTION SUDANESE INDEPENDENCE FESTIVITIES THERE, WILL
RETURN LATE AND LEAVE FOR EIGHT-DAY PILGRIMAGE VISIT SAUDI
ARABIA EARLY DEC 31. IF NO REPLY COULD BE PROVIDED PRIOR
HIS DEPARTURE, HE ASKED THAT IT BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH
OUR AMBASSADORIN JIDDA. CITING COMING NEW YEAR PERIOD,
I EXPRESSED DOUBT REPLY COULD BE PROVIDED BEFORE HE LEFT.
NIMEIRI THANKED ME FOR TRANSMITTING MESSAGE URGENTLY AND
REITERATED HE HOPED BE ABLE BOTH ASSIST AFRICAN COUNTRIES
RE OIL SUPPLIES AND HELP HOLD LINE ON PRICE. I TOLD
NIMEIRI USG OFCOURSE STILLSUBJECT FULL OIL BOYCOTT
WHICH SEEMED INCREASINGLY INAPPROPRIATE WHEN WE DOING
ALL WE CAN PROSPER MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS. NIMEIRI REPLIED
HE RECOGNIZED THIS AND HOPED SOMETHING COULD BE DONE
ABOUT IT.

7. COMMENT: WITH HIS FONMIN CABLING FROM ADDIS AND
IDRIS JUST BACK FROM SAUDI ARABIA, CIRCUMSTANCES CLEARLY
COMBINED TO CAUSE NIMEIRI MAKE ABOVE DEMARCHE TO CON-
SIDERABLE EXTENT ON SPUR OF MOMENT. HOWEVER, GOS HAS
BEEN INCREASINGLY ALARMED AT WHAT OIL SHORTAGES AND PRICE
INCREASE CAN DO TO COUNTRY'S LIMPING ECONOMY AT TIME
WHEN REGIME ALREADY UNDER FIRE LOCALLY FOR POOR ECONOMIC
SECRET

PAGE 04 KHARTO 02819 300503Z

PERFORMANCE. NIMEIRI THUS GAVE ME OVERALL IMPRESSION
OF TIRED LEADER ON BICYCLE TRYING STAY UPRIGHT
BY STAVING OFF SERIOUS THREAT TO SUDANESE DEVELOP-
MENT ON BASIS OF WHAT HE MAY WELL REGARD AS SIGNIFICANT
EMERGING ROLE FOR SUDAN ON AFRICAN AND WORLD STAGE.
HOWEVER UNREALISTIC HIS PROPOSALS MAY APPEAR FROM
WASHINGTON STANDPOINT, I HOPE SOME PROMPT AND APPROPRIATE
REPLY WILL BE PROVIDED IN ORDER AT MINIMUM ASSURE HIM
WE FULLY APPRECIATE PROBLEMS POSED FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS
BY ROCKETING OIL COSTS AND REITERATE OUR FIRM INTENTION
CONTINUE WORKING DILIGENTLY AT GENEVA AND ELSEWHERE
RESOLVE UNDERLYING PROBLEM.
BREWER

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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